

# The Riimenze Community

## Newsletter – February 2025

Sustainable Agriculture Project and Community Development



### UNMISS visit

On 6 February 2025, Solidarity Partners for Peace from the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) visited the farm of the Sustainable Agriculture Project in Riimenze (SAP-R) to assess the security situation in the area. The team was welcomed by the project director and manager, as well as other staff members.

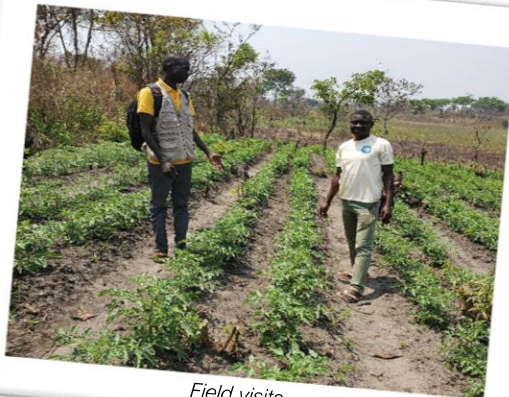
The visitors were taken to the various sections of the farm, and the project activities were explained to them. The peace keepers applauded the initiative, stating that sustainable agriculture is the only way to go. They finally assured Solidarity of their constant patrolling of the area.



*The UNMISS team visiting the farm*

### Monitoring visit

One of the main objectives of the SAP-R is to increase agricultural production in the area through community education and awareness-raising activities. The Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Officer, the Livelihood Officer and the Community Extension Workers (CEWs) periodically organize field monitoring meetings to exchange technical advice on best horticultural practices and optimize production. The objective of the monitoring visits is indeed to identify trends and patterns and to improve feedback mechanisms.



*Field visits*



## Livestock programme goes ahead

The demonstration farm of the Sustainable Agriculture Project in Riimenze (SAP-R) manages a number of livestock. These include pigs, cattle, donkeys, goats and sheep, among others.

In February 2025, about 3 pigs gave birth to 6, 7 and 11 piglets respectively, for a total of 24 piglets.

Meanwhile, the distribution of livestock continues, to reach the total number of beneficiaries involved. In fact, 30 families have been allocated 90 goats and another 30, 90 piglets. Specifically, each beneficiary will receive 2 females and 1 male, for a total of 3 heads of livestock for each family involved.



*Newborn piglets*

## Financial counselling

On 7 February, a financial officer from the Solidarity office in Juba paid an official visit to the SAP-R farm, where he had the opportunity to interact with project staff and evaluate financial documentation. The official also advised and directed project staff on best practices in recording and documentation. Suggestions welcomed by the project staff.



*Working with the finance officer*

## STTC teachers at the farm

On 21 February 2025, Ms. Thérèse and Ms. Thecla, volunteers at the Solidarity Teacher Training College (STTC), conducted a courtesy visit to the SAP-R farm.

The Livelihood Officer and the M&E Officer showed the visitors the different areas of the farm: horticulture, multi-storage, and the nutrition department.

In the photos to the side, nutrition workers can be seen peeling moringa and lantana camara leaves for processing, and mixing peanut paste ready for packaging. These products are distributed as nutritional additives to lactating mothers and children who, after careful evaluation, are considered to be at risk of malnutrition.



*Peanut paste*

*Peeling moringa leaves*



## Training for CEWs

In February 2025, Community Extension Workers (CEWs) attended a three-day introduction training on horticulture and livestock management. In addition, they were trained on monitoring tools in preparation for the quarterly data collection for the Sustainable Brick Production and Energy-Efficient Cooking for Vulnerable Households in South Sudan (SPEEC) project.



*Group photo of CEWs*

## With the Solidarity Executive Director

On 11 February 2025, Father Jim Greene, Executive Director of Solidarity with South Sudan, visited the SAP-R agricultural project. The purpose of the visit was to monitor progress, evaluate the results of the last harvest and learn more about the cultivation techniques used. Among the most interesting data was the increase in production of about 11 bags of crops compared to the previous year. In addition, the two coffee varieties grown were discussed: Excelsa, indigenous to South Sudan, and Robusta, of foreign origin.



*Father Jim visits the farm*



*Coffee harvesting*

## Solidarity Board Members

In February, SAP-R also had the privilege of receiving two visitors from Rome: Sister Oyidu Okwori (SHCJ) and Sister Gretta Fernandes (SSpS), members of the Solidarity Board. During their one-day visit to the farm, they were welcomed by the staff and then accompanied to different sections of it. The sisters admired the effort of the staff and encouraged them to engage with resourcefulness and creativity.



*SAP-R staff with sisters Oyidu and Gretta*